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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WESTERN HEMISPHERE: COLOMBIA; SCO PAULO

Uribe Mimics Chavez

Article in liberal Folha de S. Paulo(6/6) says: "[Venezuelan President Hugo] Chavez had his project to perpetuate himself in power stopped at the ballot.... Now [Colombian President Alvaro] Uribe flirts with that idea.... He does not dismiss the possibility of altering the Constitution in order to allow him to run for a third term. One should acknowledge that ...his security policies are a success.... It is for no other reason Uribe is the most popular president in the Americas with an 84% approval rate. On the political front, however, his administration is vulnerable.... To make matters worse, the president is now accused of buying votes to approve the constitutional amendment which authorized his second term.... He said once that only a 'hecatomb' could make him seek reelection. The fear now is that he will arrange for one. "
White